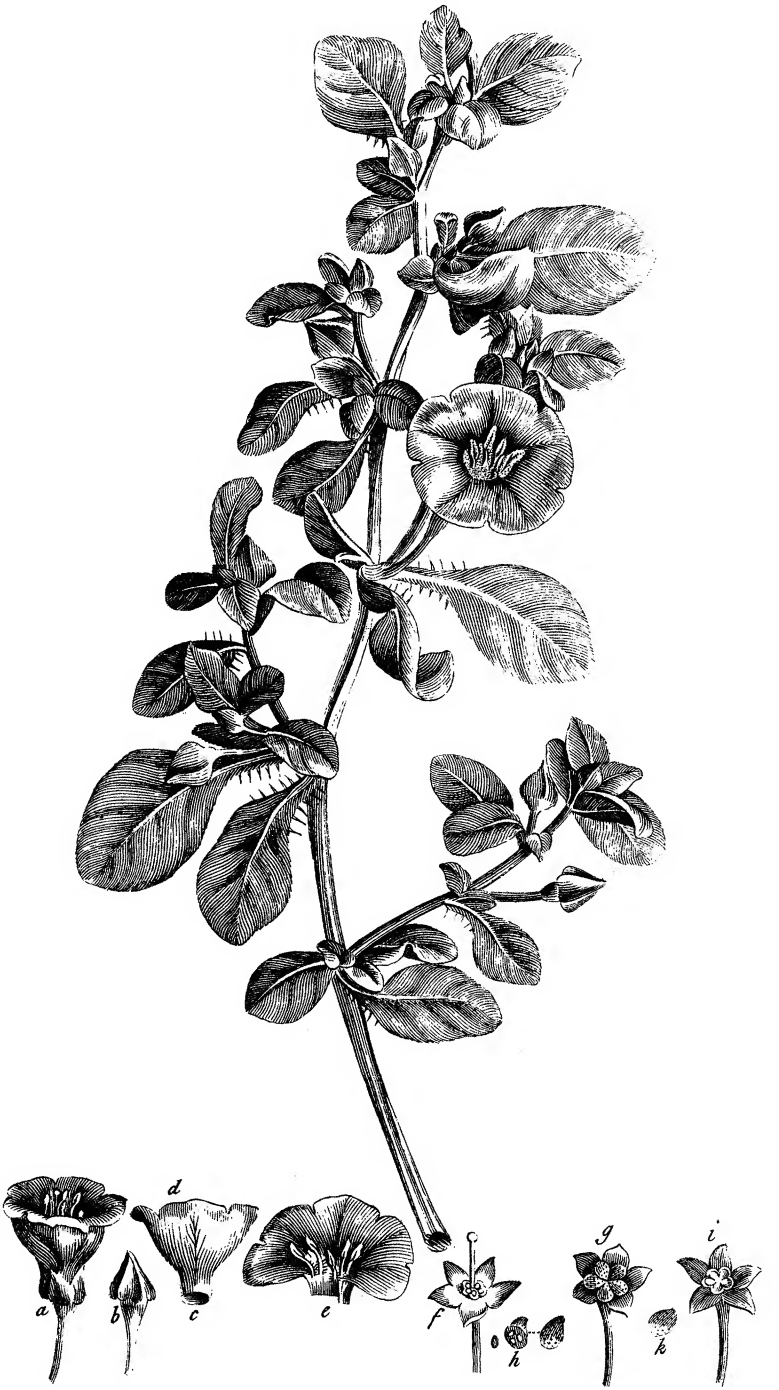
XXVII. *An Account of a new* Peruvian *Plant, lately introduced into the* Engliſh *Gardens; the ſeveral Characters of which differ from all the Genera hitherto deſcribed; Preſented to the Royal Society by* George Dionyſius Ehret, *F. R. S.*

Read May 12, 1763. THIS plant blowed in the Phyſick Garden at Chelſea, and flouriſhed there in great perfection in the year 1761. It produced abundance of branches, which ſpread themſelves on the ſurface of the ground: theſe branches were greatly multiplied by ſide ones, which grow alternately; and are ſmooth towards the ground, and ſtreaked towards the top, as the figure [TAB. X.] expreſſes. Each joint is furniſhed with many ovate-ſhaped leaves, having membraneous ciliated footſtalks.

This plant was alſo richly ornamented with abundance of buds and flowers: the flowers being of a ſky-blew, with a dark embroidered purple bottom, made a beautiful appearance.

Theſe flowers are monopetalous, or tube-ſhaped, having five obtuſe laciniæ, which expand themſelves exactly like unto the Alkekengi Indicum glabrum chenopodii folio, Dill. Hort. Elth. The difference in both theſe flowers is only in the inſertion and ſituation of their filaments: the filaments of the alkekengi adhere at the baſe of the tube, but in this flower they are inſerted in faux corolla at the ſwelling of the tube: in both of them the filaments are alſo hairy at their baſe, and their antheræ are diſtant from each



G.D. Ehret delin. *J. Mynde sc.*

other, whereas in the reſt of the Akekengi their antheræ incline to each other. The moſt remarkable character in this plant is, the poſition of the five ſimilar ſeeds, (each of theſe has its peculiar receptaculum) which lay in ſuch a manner in the center of the calyx, that, at firſt ſight, it appeared as if it belonged to that claſs of plants called Herbæ verticillatæ; but, on a cloſer inſpection, it appeared, that each of theſe ſimilar ſeeds were ſeparate ſeed veſſels (or a triſpermous fruit) and contained three ſeeds.

The ingenious and learned Dr. Albert Schloſſer, of Amſterdam F. R. S. preſented me with many curious dried ſpecimens of plants, which he had collected in the Botanic Garden at Paris in the year 1755; amongſt which was this plant, under the name of Belladona Peruviana minor. Juſſieu. Hort. Reg. Paris.

Mr. Philip Miller propoſed to honour this plant with the name of WALKERIA, in gratitude to RICHARD WALKER, D. D. Vice-maſter of Trinity College in Cambridge and Caſuiſtical Profeſſor, who, by his indefatigable pains, and at a large expence of his own, has lately founded a Phyſic Garden in that Univerſity, to incite and extend the ſtudy of Botany in that famous ſeat of the Muſes.

Deſcription of the Character, TAB. X.

FIG. *a.* Repreſents a ſide view of the calyx, whoſe leaves are open, and cover the tube of the flower: when theſe flowers drop off, the calyx cloſes inſtantly again (to protect the Embryo) and forms a pentagonal conical figure, ſee Fig. *b.*

FIG. *c.* Is a ſide view of the corolla, ſeparated from the periantheum: it has a ſmall tube which ſwells into an open (monopetalous) bell-ſhaped figure: the limbus of the corolla, Fig. *d*, having ſimall fiſſures, divides it into ſo many obtuſe laciniæ.

FIG. *e.* The inſide of the corolla laid open, to expoſe to view the five ſtamina, whoſe filaments are inſerted at the ſwelling of the tube: they are hairy at their baſe, and of equal length, and their apices are diſperſed in the middle of the flower.

FIG. *f.* This figure repreſents the calyx laid open: it is monophyllous, divided into five laciniæ: it alſo ſhews the ſituation of the five germina, which are ſurrounded with a yellowiſh nectariferous fleſhy ſubſtance. From the center of theſe germina or embryos comes forth the ſtyle, which is of equal length with the ſtamina, having a globular or capitated ſtigma.

FIG. *g.* Five capſulæ or ſeed-veſſels, which are cloſely connected to each other, adhere together, and yet may each of them be ſeparated, independent of its companion: they are punctated, rough, of a hard woody ſubſtance: each capſula contains three ſmall ovate ſeeds: ſee the tranſverſe ſection fig. *h.*

FIG. *i.* Repreſents the calyx and receptacle: the nectariferous part divides the receptacle into five ſemicircles: each of theſe veſtigia had an oval-ſhaped round capſula, fig. *k.*

XXVIII. *Ob-*